



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Media Contact: Carla Harris
(804) 726-7107

Helping Virginia Families Stay Warm *Fuel Assistance application deadline is Nov. 12*

Richmond – Applications for Fuel Assistance from the Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Energy Assistance Program are being accepted now through Friday, Nov. 12. Families and individuals must apply at their [local department of social services](#).

“No Virginian should have to face the cold winter months without heat,” said VDSS Commissioner Martin D. Brown. “The federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP, helps keep our most vulnerable residents warm in the winter and cool in the summer. We encourage those who think they may qualify – including those who have never sought assistance before – to submit their applications as soon as possible.”



(Play message from Commissioner Martin D. Brown. Available for download and use as a public service announcement - http://www.dss.virginia.gov/news/2010/ea_video.html.)

Fuel Assistance is a supplemental program intended to help households pay for heating costs. To qualify for Fuel Assistance, a one-person household's maximum gross monthly income cannot exceed \$1,174.00. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income level is \$2,389.00.

While called Fuel Assistance, the program assists with various types of energy sources, including electricity, natural and liquid propane gas, oil, kerosene, coal and wood. VDSS' Energy Assistance Program is funded by the federal LIHEAP block grant. LIHEAP provides monies to states to assist low-income households, the elderly and disabled with the cost of heating bills.

The Fuel Assistance Program was created in 1979. Last year, nearly 143,000 households received assistance. For more information on the Energy Assistance Program, pre-screening tool and application, visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.cgi>.

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Interviews are available upon request. For media inquiries only, contact Carla Harris, VDSS, (804) 726-7107 or carla.harris@dss.virginia.gov. The general public should contact their local department of social services.